



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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January 13, 2004

### FORMER YELLOW TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF A FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINED CHECK

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Robert E. Ericson**, 60, Lees' Summit, Missouri, was sentenced on January 12, 2004, by Chief U.S. District Judge John W. Lungstrum to **24 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release and ordered to pay \$323,000 in restitution.**

Melgren said that Ericson entered a guilty plea on October 20, 2003, to one count of interstate transportation of a fraudulently obtained check.

Melgren stated that Ericson admitted at his plea that from 1995 until February 2003, while he was employed as a liability claims examiner for Yellow Transportation, he devised a scheme to defraud his employer by creating and submitting to Yellow Transportation false and fictitious documents to represent claims for property damage or bodily injury. Ericson admitted that he requested that Yellow Corporation issue checks to the claimants and send the checks to him at his office in Overland Park, Kansas. Ericson also admitted that he took the checks and transported them to Blue Springs, Missouri, where he deposited them into bank accounts that he controlled. Ericson admitted that he fraudulently obtained more than \$300,000 from Yellow Transportation and used the money for personal expenses.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the U.S. Secret Service in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Marietta Parker in this prosecution.